



Deer Trustee Report Proposed Rule

What it means for deer hunters in

Standard Season Structure – Statewide

Archery and Gun License Tag Availability:

- **Farmland Zones:** One buck and one antlerless tag per license, can purchase additional (Bonus) antlerless tags if available
- **Forest Zones:** One buck, can purchase antlerless tags if available
- **Bonus antlerless tags** = \$12 statewide

Deer Hunting Season	Season dates for 2014	
	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Archery	Sept. 13 – Nov. 20 & Nov. 22 – Jan. 4, 2015	Sept. 13 – Jan. 4, 2015 Discontinue 1 day closure.
Archery - All Metro Zones	Sept. 13 – Nov. 20 & Nov. 22 – Jan. 31, 2015	Sept. 13 – Jan. 31, 2015 Discontinue 1 day closure.
Youth Hunt	October 4 & 5	NO CHANGE
Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities	October 4 – 12	NO CHANGE
9-day Gun Deer	November 22 – 30	NO CHANGE
Gun Deer - All Metro Zones	Nov. 22 - December 10	November 22 – 30
Muzzleloader	December 1 – 10	December 1 – 14
December Antlerless Hunt	December 11 - 14	DISCONTINUE
Holiday Hunt* *Not in State Parks	Dec. 24 – Jan. 4, 2015 CWD-Management Zone ONLY	NO CHANGE TO DATES Farmland Zone or S. of Hwy. 64

Deer Management Units

- Eliminate Park Zones statewide
- Convert Metro Units to “sub-units” or “zones” within new aggregation
 - Gun Season consistent with the rest of the state
 - Archery season – Sept. 13, 2014 – Jan. 31, 2015
- CWD-affected area – Identified by county boundaries consistent with baiting & feeding regulations
- Consolidate the number of DMUs considering one of the following two options:
 - Option A: Counties as boundaries
 - Option B: Consolidate existing DMU’s using established boundaries (roads, rivers, & lakes)



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Deer Management Advisory Committee

- Establish a Deer Management Advisory Committee in each county that would hold public meetings to evaluate local data regarding the deer herd.
- Continue annual “herd status” meetings at the county-level through the “Deer Management Advisory Committees.” Potential membership includes:
 - Conservation Congress
 - Agricultural
 - Forestry
 - Tourism
 - Transportation
 - Urban (City/Village) Representative
 - Tribal Representative (Ceded Territory)
- The DMU population goal for each DMU is proposed to switch from a specific overwinter population goal of deer per square mile (e.g. 25 deer/mi²) to an objective of increase, stabilize or decrease that would be evaluated every 3 years.
- The recommendation for the DMUs objective would be based on a variety of metrics or categories of data that could include:
 - Deer Health indicators
 - Deer Impacts on other natural resources
 - Societal impacts
 - Information provided from hunters (deer seen/hour of effort)
 - Sex-Age-Kill population model estimate

Options – DMU’s with a Decrease Objective or Disease-affected DMU’s

- Bonus Buck
 - Harvest 2 antlerless/1 bonus buck
 - 3 buck max
- Issue free or reduced fee Landowner permits
- Issue extra antlerless permits for sale
- Increase the number of antlerless permits with deer license purchase
- Implement 4-day October antlerless gun hunt in disease-affected areas only by emergency rule process



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Deer Management Assistance Program

Initiate a statewide 3-tiered Deer Management Assistance Program

Level 1 (entry level option aimed at increasing communication with landowners and hunters)

- No annual fee, minimum acreage, or participation requirements.
- Components: DMAP educational resources (online, print), annual DMAP reports, attendance at annual workshop and meetings, assistance with “citizen science” opportunities, and information on forming DMAP cooperatives.

Level 2 (best suited for small-medium properties with minimal management goals)

- \$75/3-year enrollment, 160 acre minimum property size (cooperatives of neighboring landowners can be formed). Cooperatives will be required to submit an application, biological harvest data, and attend an annual meeting and/or workshop.
- Components: Level 1 components plus: on-site visit by a wildlife biologist and forester, management plan with habitat and harvest recommendations, cooperative-specific aerial photo, reduced fee antlerless tags, and cooperative-specific harvest reports.

Level 3 (best suited for medium-large properties with complex management goals)

- \$150/3-year enrollment, 640-acre minimum property size. Cooperatives will be required to submit an application, biological harvest data, and attend an annual meeting.
- Components: Level 2 components plus: management recommendations for wildlife other than deer, assistance with deer population monitoring, annual habitat evaluations, assistance with other conservation programs (i.e. CRP), property design/layout recommendations, additional site-visits and in-depth management recommendations.

- Enrollees would be eligible to receive antlerless tags at a reduced rate
- A public land option would also be available.

Other Proposed Program Changes

- Transition to an automated deer registration system in the 2015 deer season with a pilot occurring in 2014.
- Restore a statewide restriction on the harvest of white/albino deer.